

THE TOWNE HALL NEWS



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CONCERT SERIES RETURNS

Rules for audience safety updated in 2020

The City of Woodstock recently released the 2020 Summer Concert Series schedule which starts on Saturday May 9th when the Ultimate Queen Experience starring Marc Martel takes the stage. Martel played an unseen role in the 2018 biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" by contributing vocal recordings used alongside Queen master tapes of Freddie Mercury for Rami Malek's singing scenes in the movie. The show is sure to be an explosive, attention-commanding tribute where some of the most iconic rock anthems of all time collide with a theatrical, eye-popping performance.

Due to the increased attendance at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater expected this year, the city has announced updated rules for audience safety. Chairs may not be to be placed in the park prior to 6 am on the Friday before a concert. In addition, the following items are prohibited : tables, plastic sheets, tarps, blankets, and towels.

The Woodstock Summer Concert Series is a free event presented by City of Woodstock and Carriage Kia Woodstock. Opening acts begin at 7:30 pm and headliners take the stage at 8:30 pm. The event is rain or shine. For the complete 2020 line-up as well as venue and transportation options, visit woodstockconcertseries.com.

THE STATE OF THE CITY

by : Donnie Henriques, Mayor

In January, I gave my annual State of the City Address to City Council and also to investors in IN WDSTK, Inc. and outlined our city's accomplishments in 2019 in areas like professionalism, sustainability, infrastructure, outreach, and development.



City of Woodstock is staffed by over 200 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employees across 9 divisions who work daily to provide the highest level of professionalism, leadership, and customer service to citizens, stakeholders, and visitors. In 2019, Calvin Moss was named Police Chief of the Year in Georgia, Jake Hill was named Building Inspector of the Year in Georgia, and The Woodstock Visitors Center at Historic Dean's Store was named Visitor Center of the Year in Georgia. Council Member Colin Ake and Budget Analyst Crystal Welch were recognized as Top Ten in Ten by the Cherokee Chamber and the Woodstock mobile visitors center was awarded the Jeffery Tatum Visionary Award by the Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division.

Woodstock is taking proactive steps to provide its citizens with a sustainable living environment. The goal of these programs is to define and implement the necessary steps to minimize the city's negative impact on the environment while promoting energy efficiency and cost savings. The City was recertified as a Green Community at the Gold Level by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Over 850,000 pounds of recyclables were collected as part of the Mayor's Recycling Challenge, and Woodstock was recognized for the highest percentage increase of materials collected in 2019 at 67%. An urban orchard was installed at Dupree Park made possible by a grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission's Local Food Initiative and over \$450,000 in impact fees was collected in 2019 through new residential permits for the expansion of parks and recreation facilities.

Woodstock continues to implement programs and partnerships to encourage small business and commercial development to complement the residential development that is occurring. In 2019, 322 new residential permits were issued. We added 465,000 square feet of commercial space valued at \$27 Million. Last year, 438 new business licenses were issued and Council implemented the small business license waiver program.

Crime was down 11% from 2018. Woodstock Police responded to 31,946 calls and Woodstock Fire and Rescue responded to 5,901 calls.

Twenty-eight events took place at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater in 2019. There were over 50,000 attendees at those events.

Looking forward, engineering for the Neese Road/Hwy 92 project will take place in 2020. Design, right-of-way, and public engagement for the Woodstock Hub project will take place this year and concept plans for the City Center Development on the Morgan's Ace Hardware site will be finalized.

You can view my entire presentation at wdstk.ga/2020sotc.

WE LOVE OUR PUBLIC WORKS TEAM

Our Public Works team keeps our community in rhythm by providing an orchestra of infrastructure services in transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater treatment, public buildings and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management.

National Public Works Week is May 17th - 23rd. "The Rhythm of Public Works" is this year's theme. We applaud the dedication and accomplishments of the entire Public Works Department.



NEW AND UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Grand Opening: Ridge Trail Extension

Join elected officials and city staff for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the extension of Ridge Trail connecting Rope Mill Road and Ridgewalk Parkway.

The ceremony will take place on Monday March 16th at 6 pm at the Inwood II connection to the new section of Ridge Trail.

Public Input: Neese Road

Please join us at our next Public Input Meeting for Transportation Infrastructure Improvements on March 19th 5-7 pm at the Chambers at City Center (8534 Main Street).

Plans for improvements to Neese Road will be discussed. The meeting is an open house so come and go between 5-7 pm at your convenience.



Did you know?

The City of Woodstock maintains a complete list of infrastructure plans from concept through completion online at wdstk.ga/pwprojects

Recently announced organizational changes saw Rob Hogan (R) promoted to Assistant City Manager of Public Works, while Jeremy Parker (L) was promoted to Public Works Director.

Upcoming Events

march

March 5 Planning Commission 7 pm
March 6 Friday Night Live: Fido Fest 6 pm
March 9 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
March 16 Work Session of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
March 18 Coffee with a Cop at Chick-fil-a (9728 Hwy 92) 8 am
March 19 Public Input Meeting about Neese Road 5 pm
March 23 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
March 25 IN WDSK Mastermind 8 am
March 27 IN WDSK Morning INfluence 8 am
March 28 AMPED in the Park 9 am

April 1-25 Visit Woodstock presents the Discover Woodstock Scavenger Hunt
April 2 Planning Commission 7 pm
April 3 Friday Night Live: 90s Night 6 pm
April 13 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
April 15 Coffee with a Cop at Dunkin Donuts (875 Towne Lake Pkwy) 8 am
April 20 Town Hall Meeting 6 pm
April 20 Work Session of the Mayor and Council 7 pm
April 23 Taste of Woodstock 5 pm
April 24 IN WDSK presents Morning INfluence 8 am
April 24 Sunset Symphony 7 pm
April 25 Woodstock Farm Fresh Market Opening Day 8:30 am
April 25 Greenstock Day at Woodstock Elementary 9 am
April 25 Touch-a-Truck at City Center Parking Lot 11 am
April 25 Rock for Rescues Presented by Vox Artium Foundation 4 pm
April 27 Music Mondays in May 11 am
April 27 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm

april

Georgia Cities Week is April 20 - 25

Join us at one or all of the highlighted events in April and help Woodstock support Georgia Cities Week. Opportunities are available to learn more about the valuable services the city provides to residents, including an inside look into city operations and how cities positively impact their quality of life with events and connections to each other.

Rock for Rescues

Rock for Rescues presented by Vox Artium Foundation takes place April 25, 2020 from 4 - 11 pm in the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater.

Bands include Bumpin the Mangoes, Interstellar Echoes (Pink Floyd Tribute), and Departure (Journey Tribute).

The event benefits Aware Wildlife Center, Canine Cellmates, Fur Kids, Georgia House Rabbit Society, and Special Equestrians of Georgia. \$20 ticket for entry. For more information, please visit www.rockforrescues.org.

Events (cont.)

may

May 1 Friday Night Live: Star Wars Night 6 pm

May 2 AMPED in the Park 9 am

May 2 Trailfest at the Elm Street Green 8am

May 4 Music Mondays in May (1960s) 11 am

May 7 Planning Commission 7 pm

May 9 Summer Concert Series: Ultimate Queen Celebration 7:30 pm

May 11 Music Mondays in May (1970s) 11 am

May 11 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm

May 14 IN WDSTK presents MINgle at Prime 120 6 pm

May 16 Kids to Parks Day & Downtown Playground Ribbon Cutting TBA

May 18 Music Mondays in May (1980s) 11 am

May 18 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council 7 pm

May 20 Coffee With a Cop at Copper Coin (400 Chambers St) 8 am

May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony at Park at City Center & City Offices Closed

FREE FITNESS SERIES OFFERED BY PARKS AND REC



AMPED in the Park, the monthly Woodstock Parks and Recreation fitness program at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater kicks off its third season on Saturday, March 28 at 9 am. Each month, a different Woodstock-based fitness organization brings their variety of workout to the program.

On March 28, AMPED in the Park is hosted by Strongside. "AMPED in the Park is amazing!" said Mitchel Black, head coach at Strongside. "This outstanding event allows us to show Woodstock what we do and how we help people in their health and fitness."

Citizens are encouraged to look at the NHCA as a place for daily fitness activities. "Equipment is nice and is important at times, but on a beautiful day it can just be you versus you and you can have a great session at the amphitheater." said Black. "Whether you're looking for aerobic activity, bodyweight moments, strength work, or even some yoga, all that can be found with a little creativity at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater."

May 2 AMPED in the Park will be conducted by Burn Boot Camp and June 6 will be with American Body Works. Participants should arrive 20 minutes early to register and prepare for the 60-minute workout. A bottle of water and a yoga/workout mat are encouraged.



National Travel and Tourism Week is May 3-9. Visit Woodstock GA is the city's official destination marketing organization. Last year through print and digital advertising, publicity, events, and creative placemaking efforts, Visit Woodstock GA realized a 3.2% increase in revenue generated by hotel accommodations in City of Woodstock.

Tourism in Georgia is a \$66.3 billion industry. Without the state and local tax revenues generated by tourism, each Georgia household would have to pay an additional \$916 in taxes. Without the jobs supported by the tourism industry, unemployment in Georgia would rise from 3.9% to 10%.



2020 Taste of Woodstock

Elm Street Cultural
Arts Village
Event Green

April 23rd
5-9pm



SUNSET SYMPHONY

Woodstock Parks & Recreation welcomes the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra to the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater for a Sunset Symphony featuring its jazz ensemble and full symphonic band on Friday, April 24, 2020 beginning at 7 pm. "Young musicians from across the state of Georgia will gather together at this event to share their passion for music," GYSO Education Director Melody Richardson said. "This love of music is a commonality that bridges cultural and socioeconomic divides to unite all people." This spring edition of Sunset Symphony is the third installment of the series after two successful fall concerts by the Cobb New Horizons Symphonic Band in 2018 and 2019 at the Northside Hospital-Cherokee Amphitheater. "Performing in such a unique and open venue will make a huge impact on our students by enabling them to directly connect with the audience," Richardson said of the venue. "This particular connection fuels and encourages performers to create openly. The experience will be simply unforgettable for our students." The concert is free. Food vendors will be on site for dinner and refreshments, but picnic style dinners and coolers are allowed as well. For more information on the Georgia Youth Symphony Orchestra, please visit www.georgiayouthsymphony.org.



GREENSTOCK DAY RETURNS

Annual event takes place Saturday April 25

As part of continuing efforts to encourage residents to reuse, repurpose, recycle, rethink and reduce, the City of Woodstock is pleased to announce the annual Greenstock Day on Saturday April 25 from 9 am to 1 pm at Woodstock Elementary School (230 Rope Mill Road).

This event allows residents the opportunity to drop off 'hard to recycle' items in accordance with the lists, fees and regulations listed below. Just bring the items to the school and we will unload them for you.

We want to thank our partners that help us put on this annual event : Waste Management, Premier Surplus, USAgain and A1 Shredding and Recycling. Additional information on this event can be found at woodstockparksandrec.com.

ELECTRONICS - PHONES - BATTERIES

All collections made free of charge except for televisions which require a \$25 fee; projection TVs are \$40; CRT monitors are \$10; LCD monitors are \$5. Cash only.

Please place clear tape over battery terminals prior to drop off.

COMPACT FLORESCENT BULBS

Must be in a clear plastic, sealed bag.
No long, tubular light bulbs.

TEXTILES

Clothing, shoes, belts, hats, purses and backpacks, bedding, towels, curtains, and plush toys will be accepted.

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

Residential, confidential documents only. Limit 8 boxes per car.

MAGAZINES - NEWSPAPERS

HEARING AIDS - EYEGLASSES

CITY-WIDE YARD SALE: Weekend of April 25th

In conjunction with Earth Week, residents are encouraged, city-wide, to hold yard sales. Sign up at www.woodstockparksandrec.com to have your yard sale added to the list which will be promoted on our website, event flyers, e-mail blast, CraigsList.com, and newspaper ads free of charge. Deadline for ads is 4-6-20.

Did you know?

Woodstock residents can request a special trash pick up anytime you have large items that cannot be sold or donated by calling Waste Management at 404-794-6707.

BE READY FOR THE 2020 CENSUS. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF WOODSTOCK PARTICIPATES.

The results of the 2020 Census will help determine congressional representation. It will also determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into local communities every year for the next decade.



The data gathered by the 2020 Census will influence highway planning and construction. In our local schools, census results help determine how money is allocated for the Head Start program, school lunches, and for grants that support teachers and special education. Census data helps our community respond to natural disasters and secure funding for hospitals and fire departments.

Results affect planning and funding for healthcare - including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, state children's health insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Households will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker. Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. 95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail. 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off - these households may not receive mail at their home's physical location and use P.O. boxes instead.

The Census Bureau has special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

On or between March 12-20 you'll receive an invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. The U.S. Postal Service will stagger the delivery of invitations over several days in an effort to spread out the number of users responding online and allow Census Bureau employees to better serve respondents who need help over the phone.

During follow-up efforts, census takers will visit all households that were invited to respond on their own and haven't:

- March 16-24, you will receive a reminder letter if you have not responded
- March 26-April 3 reminder postcards will arrive
- April 8-16, a reminder letter and paper questionnaire will be received
- A final reminder postcard will be sent April 20-27 before a census taker follows up in person

If someone visits your home in April to collect information for the 2020 Census, check to make sure they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. A census taker will never ask you for your Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, your bank or credit card numbers.

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

ANNUAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL RETREAT

Woodstock Mayor Donnie Henriques and the six members of City Council joined the city's management team in Rome, Georgia the weekend of February 8-10.

The leaders examined departmental opportunities and threats and also learned about Rome's strategy for downtown parking from Rome Downtown Development Authority staff.



NEW MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Robert Tidwell

Robert Tidwell became Woodstock's Municipal Court Judge in January following the departure of Judge Philip Taylor. Taylor left to take a position with the Justice Department.

Tidwell formerly served as a Woodstock Planning Commissioner. He is a partner at Tidwell Strimban law firm.

The Municipal Court adjudicates misdemeanor criminal, traffic, and city ordinance cases.



Did you know?

The exhibit space in the Woodstock Visitors Center is hosting an art exhibit by local plein air painter Brenda Pinnick in March and a history exhibit by Preservation Woodstock about the Johnston Family in May.

HUNT DOWN DRIPS DURING THE EPA'S FIX-A-LEAK WEEK MARCH 16-22

The average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year. That's the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry. It could be costing you an additional 10% on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and cut down your water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking shower heads all are easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in your community. Take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!

Check Your Water Bill

A great place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCF) per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month?

Read Your Water Meter

Find your water meter, which is usually near the curb in front of your home. Remove the lid on your meter, which is heavy and usually marked "water." Take a reading during a period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak.

Take a Toilet Test

Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush afterward to avoid staining, and consider replacing your old toilet flapper if it is torn or worn.



NEW MEMBERS OF THE CITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

Rob Hogan, Assistant City Manager for Public Works

Rob was promoted to Assistant City Manager for Public Works in January.

He has been with City of Woodstock since 2013. Rob helped to restructure the Public Works department and participated in continued long-range development and planning to support the growth of the city. Prior to joining City of Woodstock, Rob was the CEO of a technology start-up, a senior executive with the Department of Homeland Security and Equifax, and a Vice President with Days Inn of America. A graduate of the University of Florida, Hogan holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Kennesaw State University and has completed the Goizueta Executive Program at Emory University.

Rob is pictured on page 3.

Coty Thigpen, Assistant City Manager for Administration

Coty began work with the City of Woodstock in January.

She left the position of City Clerk of City of Sandy Springs to become City of Woodstock's Assistant City Manager for Administration. She has also served as City Clerk with City of Alpharetta and City of Canton.

Coty will oversee the city's Information Technology Department, GIS/Mapping Services and Human Resources Divisions.

Ron Shelby, CFO

Ron joined City of Woodstock in February as Chief Financial Officer.

He was most recently the Assistant Director for the Center for State and Local Finance at Georgia State University. Before that, he spent 13 years working in finance at Galveston County, Texas.



Thigpen holds a Master of Public Administration with Local Government Administration Concentration and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from University of Georgia.



Shelby holds a Master of Finance and an MBA with Human Resource Management Concentration and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Stanford.

Did you know?

The City of Woodstock offers employees a robust benefit package and a great work environment. See current opportunities at wdstk.ga/jobs

SMART WOODSTOCK CHALLENGE GRANT

by : Katie O'Connor, Senior City Planner

The Georgia Smart Communities Challenge (“Georgia Smart”) is a funding and technical assistance program for local governments within the State of Georgia. Georgia Smart is a first-of-its-kind opportunity for communities of any size in Georgia to receive grant funding and support that enables them to envision, explore, and plan for their “smart” future. Communities will be given financial assistance, a partnership with a Georgia Tech research team, networking opportunities, and access to additional, unique resources to execute their projects. These resources include connections to industry experts and access to technology solutions provided by our provider-partners. Georgia Smart is organized by the Georgia Institute of Technology in partnership with Georgia Power, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), Association County Commissioners of Georgia, Georgia Centers for Innovation, Georgia Chamber, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Municipal Association, Metro Atlanta Chamber, and Technology Association of Georgia, Georgia Planning Association, and the Global City Teams Challenge.



The City of Woodstock will develop a masterplan and a Smart Corridor Study for optimizing infrastructure needs and modeling land use changes using a grant funded from Georgia Smart. The City of Woodstock has experienced significant growth in the past few decades. Its population has doubled from 10,050 to 22,027 according to the 2010 U.S. Census. This population growth along with a variety of community focused recreational events periodically held in the city has caused traffic congestion and parking challenges. The amount of traffic and lack of parking are constant complaints from Woodstock citizens, business owners, and visitors.

Woodstock's Downtown District has several physical barriers that contribute to the traffic congestion. The presence of I-575 on the west side of Downtown, the railroad which runs north-south, and an odd intersection configuration in the center of town involving several streets adds to the traffic complexity. Current conditions along the main corridors in town are varied and unpredictable at times. Commuters are also a significant part of the traffic congestion. 78% of residents leave the county for employment per the Cherokee Office of Economic Development Study. The corridors experience both major congestion during rush hour and dangerous speeding during non-peak times.

Cherokee County is projected to experience continued rapid growth over the next few decades and Woodstock is expected to be the destination for both residents of Woodstock and those who live in the surrounding community. This will bring many challenges in balancing traffic and pedestrians in the core of the city. The City of Woodstock hopes to increase efficiency in the corridors by utilizing autonomous vehicles with drop-off lanes, to reduce the need for parking, and managed right of way traffic controls with smart data-capturing sensors to ease traffic flow without destroying the walkability and family-oriented atmosphere of its downtown. For more information on the challenge grant process, please visit wdstk.ga/smart.

FIRST RESPONDERS RECEIVE LIFE SAVING AWARD

After saving the life of a local child

On February 10th, Woodstock Fire & Rescue Firefighters Smith and Wilson, Woodstock Police Department Sargeant Letzin and Officer Wynn, Cherokee County Emergency 911 Dispatchers, and Cherokee County Fire Department personnel were recognized with an award at the Regular Meeting of Mayor and Council for saving the life of a local child.



OPEN BURNING BAN

Beginning May 1st and ending September 30th, The Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Open Burning Ban will be enforced in 54 Georgia counties. In Atlanta, during the summer months, the ozone in the air we breathe can reach unhealthy levels. Ozone is formed when volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides react in the presence of sunlight. A major source of these pollutants is the burning of fuels and other combustible materials.

The Georgia EPD has identified open burning as a significant contributor of the pollutants that form ozone. Therefore, open burning in metro Atlanta and the surrounding areas must be restricted during the summer months.

Beginning May 1st and ending September 30th, EPD's Open Burning Ban will be enforced in 54 Georgia counties. The Open Burning Ban prohibits citizens and businesses from burning yard and land-clearing debris. This rule is in addition to the year-round state ban on the burning of household garbage.

MAY IS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

by : Jake Hill, Senior Inspector/City Arborist

Building codes and the officials who enforce them are making our families and communities safer and more resilient. Homes and buildings that are built in compliance with building safety codes result in resilient structures that minimize the risks of death, injury and property damage. In the wake of a disastrous hurricane season, rampant wildfires and devastating earthquakes, building safety is even more important. Building safety affects everyone, and modern, updated building codes save lives.



When our building safety and fire prevention experts inspect buildings and review construction plans to ensure code compliance, they help to ensure the places where you live, work and play are safe. We work closely with homebuilders, contractors, plumbers, and all other construction industry trades to provide for the public safety of our community.

In May, the City of Woodstock is once again participating in Building Safety Month, a worldwide campaign presented by the International Code Council, its members and partners to promote building safety.

First observed in 1980, Building Safety Month raises awareness about critical safety issues from structural to fire prevention, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency.

This year's themes are:

Disaster Preparedness // May 1-10

Be prepared for natural and manmade disasters

Water Safety // May 11-17

Make smart decisions about water safety and conservation

Resiliency. Sustainability. Innovation. // May 18-24

Make communities more resilient with science and technology based code requirements.

Training the Next Generation // May 25-31

Work with the building industry to train the next generation of building safety professionals.

Follow City of Woodstock, GA on Facebook for in-depth posts on each of these important topics during the month of May.



CITY OF WOODSTOCK

Memorial Day Ceremony

With American Legion Post 316,
Marine Corps League Detachment
1311, Warriors' Watch Riders & Others

MONDAY, MAY 25 AT 10 A.M.

The Park at City Center
101 Arnold Mill Road

In Observance of Memorial Day

City offices will be closed. Also there is no residential garbage service on Memorial Day (Monday, May 25). Weekday holidays delay collection by one day for the remainder of the week. Since this holiday falls on a Monday, Monday customers will be collected on Tuesday and Tuesday customers will be collected on Wednesday.

DOWNTOWN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Ribbon Cutting on Kids to Parks Day - Saturday, May 16th

The downtown playground is a project located on the Elm Street Arts Village event green property along Market Street between Oak and Maple Streets. Due to the trees and in an effort to work with the existing landscape, the playground is designed to be a 'natural playground' incorporating elements and textures from the landscape.

The playground will include an ADA accessible boardwalk to enter the site from the corner of Market and Maple Streets which leads to an accessible play area. This area includes elements meant to engage users with music and building pieces. A natural path will lead from there through hammocks and tables to another play area which includes a 20 ft tall jungle explorer dome designed for children ages to 5-12 to interact in different ways with the structure.

Additional features include climbing mounds and tunnels through earthen berms. While every effort has been made to design and build the project within the existing tree canopy, some tree removal will be necessary for safety. The total budget for the playground is \$510,000 and has been funded utilizing SPLOST and Parks and Rec Impact Fee Funds.



Rendering of Downtown Playground
Anticipated Completion May 2020

A permanent restroom facility will also be installed at the Noonday Creek trailhead and Market Street adjacent to the playground. The unique 'shipping container' design will provide a much needed public facility in the area that will be open during trail/playground hours and other special events. The total budget for the restroom project is \$130,000 and has been funded utilizing SPLOST and Parks and Rec Impact Fee Funds as well as contributions from the Downtown Development Authority and Elm Street Arts Village.



Towne Hall News is a quarterly publication.
The next issue will be in June 2020.

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